

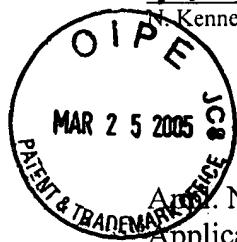
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/746,716 Confirmation No. 1179
Applicant : Grube et al.
Filed : December 22, 2000
TC/A.U : 2839
Examiner : Neil Abrams

Docket No. : 276440-11

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of December 22, 2004, the shortened statutory period for response to which ends after March 22, 2005, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.